

Appl. No.: 10/709,259
Amdt. Dated: 4/29/2006
Reply to Office action of: 03/03/2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figured 1 – 3. These sheets, which include Figures 1 – 3, replace the original sheets including Figures 1 – 3. In each of Figures 1 – 3, the fuse holder module body (1) is correctly indicated and the fixing means (10) previously not numbered has been so numbered.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s) - 2
Annotated Sheet(s) Showing Changes - 2

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, paragraphs [0016] – [0018] have been amended to correct minor editorial problems and provide consistent terminology throughout the application. Support for these amendments may be found in the original claims and paragraph [0010] for example.

In amended Figures 1 – 3 the numeral (1) has had the identification line corrected to indicate the whole fuse holder module body and the omitted numeral (10) identifying the “fixing element” has been added.

Claims 1 – 4 remain in this application. Claims 1 – 4 have been amended to overcome the objections and paragraph 112 rejections as well as correct minor typographical and editorial errors.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner states:

Therefore, the “a body” and “a fixing element” must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

By this amendment the Applicant has correctly identified the body (1) as well as adding the identifying numeral for the fixing element (10). Both of these elements are in the original figures 1 – 3 but simply misidentified or not identified originally. By this amendment to the drawings these errors have been corrected without adding any new matter to the application. Clearly, when viewed in this light this objection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests this objection be removed.

Claims 1 – 4 were objected to for the following informalities: “fuses” and “main electric junction box” in claim 1 lacks antecedent basis.

By this amendment the Applicant has amended claim 1 such that the terms “fuses” and “main electric junction box” are properly introduced in the claim and have the necessary basis for use. Clearly, when viewed in this light this objection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests this objection be removed.

Claims 1 – 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention. Specifically, the Examiner states:

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Regarding Claims 1 – 4, the phrase “such as” in claim 1 renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The present claims as currently amended provide claims conforming to current U.S. practice and correct the error causing indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner. Clearly, when viewed in this light this rejection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be removed.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nelson, Jr. (US 5,904,514). Specifically, the Examiner states:

With respect to Claim 1, Nelson teaches a fuse holder system which, being specially conceived to integrate fuses involved in periodic controls or diagnoses of vehicle safety systems is characterized in that it consists of a fuse holder module (Fig. 3, #24) provided with a body (Fig. 3, #30) capable of housing the different fuses (Fig. 3, #14) left and right sides) involved, which for safety reasons must be associated but with the possibility of being connected and disconnected (Col. 1, lines 2 – 4) at will, said body having two housings (Fig. 1, #12 and #14) for the fuses (Fig. 3, #14 left and right sides), with a cover (Fig. 3, #37) for closure of said housing and with a fixing element (Fig. 2, #26 and Col. 3, lines 19 – 21) fixing it to a main electric junction box (Fig. 2, #10) of the vehicle.

With respect to Claim 3, Nelson further teach that the cover forms a single piece (see Fig. 3) therewith, and is joined therewith through a pivoting line determining a joint or a swinging hinge (Col. 3, line 67, hinged), said cover being provided with fixing means (#26) for fixing it to the module in a closed position (see Fig. 4).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The key to Applicants' invention is an easily removable fuse holding module that contains a variety of different fuse types protecting automotive circuits directed to safety diagnoses circuits and circuits used to provide periodic controls such that they may easily be inspected and said circuits more easily maintained.

A fair reading of the Nelson, Jr. (US 5,904,514) reference discloses a removable fuse block module which is specifically directed to contain only the fuses controlling the critical operating electrical circuits such that when removed the vehicle is inoperable and

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therefore theft proof. The reference further teaches that the fuse block module need be restricted to as few operating circuit fuses as suitable to disable the vehicle to provide the smallest size because the module will need to be carried by the vehicle operator when the vehicle is not in use. Furthermore, the Nelson, Jr. reference teaches the desirability of having a keypad type security system incorporated into the fuse block module to secure further the vehicle from theft when the original fuse block module is disengaged. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's assertions this reference does not teach a module fuse block suitable for providing easy and convenient removal of fuses associated with the safety diagnoses circuits and circuits used to provide periodic controls, nor does it suggest to one skilled in the art that such a module may be produced from the teachings of the Nelson, Jr. reference. In addition, the Nelson, Jr. reference fails to teach a hinged cover adaptable to cover at least two different fuse type holders but instead fails to teach anything about the possibility of more than a single type or style of fuse and a simple cover to cover a sing type or style of fuse. The preferred embodiments of the Nelson, Jr. reference having a keypad entry security system further teaches away from Applicant's claimed invention as it would be counterproductive to have a secret entry code and then have to provide it to every service person needing to inspect the systems controlled by the fuse block module. Clearly, when viewed in this light this rejection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be removed.

Claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson, Jr. (US 5,904,514) in view of Fouts et al. (US 5,179,503). Specifically, the Examiner states:

With respect to Claim 2, Nelson further teaches that the housings are variable in number, according to the number of (Col. 3, line 47) fuses. Nelson fails to teach that the housings are variable in configuration, according to different features of the fuses. Fouts et al. teaches housings are variable in configuration (Col. 2, lines 60 – 62), according to different features of the fuses (Fig. 3, FUSE and MAXI-FUSE). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the fuse holder system of Nelson with that of Fouts et al. for the purpose of combining various number of housings configurations depending on the number and

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